

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) An insulating structure comprising:
a surface, at least a portion of said surface having a patterned texture.
2. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 1, wherein: ~~in which~~
the patterned texture is two-dimensional.
3. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 2, wherein: ~~in which~~
at least one of the width, radius and ~~or~~ circumference of said insulating structure is non-uniform along its length.
4. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim ~~Claims~~ 2 ~~or~~ 3, wherein: ~~in which~~
the patterned texture is fluted.
5. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 3, wherein: ~~in which~~
said insulating structure is elongated and longitudinally fluted.
6. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim ~~Claims~~ 4 ~~or~~ 5, wherein: ~~in which~~
the flute depth at any point on said structure varies according to the at least one width, radius and ~~or~~ circumference of the structure.

7. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 6, wherein: ~~in which~~
a ~~the~~ perimeter length for all transverse sections of said insulating structure is
substantially constant along the length of the structure.
8. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 4, wherein: ~~in which~~
the fluting has one of a sinusoidal and a ~~or~~ saw-tooth profile.
9. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 1, wherein: ~~in which~~
the patterned texture is three-dimensional.
10. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 9, wherein: ~~in which~~
said insulating structure is formed with an array of protuberances.
11. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim ~~Claims~~ 9 ~~or~~ 10, wherein: ~~in~~
~~which~~
said insulating structure is formed with an array of concavities.
12. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim ~~any of Claims~~ 9 ~~to~~ 11,
wherein: ~~in which~~
said patterned texture comprises ~~said protuberances and/or concavities are~~ geometrical
sections of a form selected from the group including a spherical form, an ellipsoidal form, a
paraboloidal form, a hyperboloidal form, a conical form and ~~or~~ other symmetric form.
13. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim ~~any of Claims~~ 9 ~~to~~ 12,
wherein: ~~in which~~

the form of said patterned texture ~~the protuberances and/or concavities~~ is such that the surface area of said insulating structure is substantially constant along its length.

14. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim ~~any of Claims 9 to 12,~~
wherein: in which

the form of said pattern texture ~~the protuberances and/or concavities~~ is such that the surface area of said insulating structure is controlled to produce a defined variation along its length.